



"THE SANDBOX"



U.S. NAVY SUPPLY CORPS BIRTHDAY



Supply Corps Officer Laura Foster (back row center) and several of her Supply Department staff members

February 23 marks the 212th birthday of the Navy Supply Corps. Naval vessels since the early days of sail have gone to sea with an Officer, called the Purser, tasked with the daunting challenge of financing, fitting out, feeding, and sustaining their ships during long periods away from port. In 1795 the fledgling United States unified the responsibility for material support of its new Navy under Philadelphia lawyer and financier Tench Francis, the event from which today's Navy Supply Corps traces its founding.

Logistics is the enabler through which combat potential becomes power projection, and it is the core mission of the modern Supply Corps Officer. Supply Officers continue to serve the Navy onboard ships, squadrons and shore installations managing the financial and material readiness of the fleet. Their range of responsibilities have grown as the Navy has taken a more expeditionary posture in order to meet 21st century threats, and include developing and leading units key to military logistical infrastructure such as stevedoring, customs, warehousing, distribution, fuels management, and contingency contracting. Supply Officers today are deployed throughout the distant corners of the Global War on Terrorism, including being embedded with Afghan and Iraqi military units teaching and mentoring their allies in harms way. The "Pork Chops" of today's Navy still retain the heritage of their purser ancestors as exemplified by their motto "Ready for Sea", but in the current world of joint forces pursuing global threats, our chops must be "Ready for Anything".

Admiral Arleigh Burke once observed "No matter who carries the load in any fight – Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, or Marines – they need to be supported and supplied from the sea." That is the duty of the men and women of the Supply Corps. Happy Birthday!

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider was lost.
For want of a rider the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail."

-Old English Nursery Rhyme



CDR Simon Cole

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For the Safety of Our Homeland and for Our Families We are here!!!



NAVELSG FORWARD SOARING EAGLES



CAPTAIN Rivenbark

Our first guiding principle is "Every day will be an injury free day." Now that we're over four months into our deployment, it is time to recommit ourselves to safe work practices. Working at the wash racks, operating forklifts, working onboard ships, moving containers on piers and in marshalling yards, and operating hand tools are examples of work that could become very dangerous. Therefore, please keep your focus on the job at hand. Working safely is all about shipmates taking care of shipmates. Everyone is considered a Safety Officer; therefore, you are expected to be proactive and fix safety issues before they become problems. I encourage you to do your part. Your shipmates are depending on you and your family is depending on you. Please be safe. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and commitment to accomplishing our mission safely!

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF ANDERSON



CMDCM Anderson

Happy Valentine's Day! Can you believe that it is already February of 2007? The deployment is more than 1/2 way complete. At the same time, we need to realize that we still have opportunities to make a significant impact on our mission and process improvements.

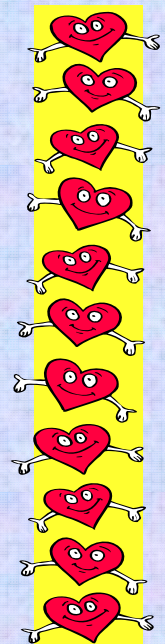
By the time you read this, the advancement exams will be over, and the anticipation of the results will be on your minds. Don't wait, start now on rate training, military requirements and other professional development. Work with others in your rating, company or department.

Last month we said goodbye to CMDCM Rummel who completed an awesome tour as the NAVELSG CMDCM. He saw all 5 PORT Operations, 4 CUSTOMS, 3 FW HQ and 6 MACH deployments (of NAVELSG) during his tenure. Master Chief, thank you for your leadership and concern for all of our Sailors, the mission success and our families. We also welcome CMDCM(AW) Watson, as the new Command Master Chief, who was onboard with us through the Christmas Holiday.

During the weeks of January 29 and February 5, NAVELSG FWD Safety Awareness Weeks took place. The training was led in the most cases by our 1st Class Petty Officers. GREAT JOB! Remember we want to bring all our Shipmates home safely, after completing our mission.

Remember to look out for your Shipmates, whether they be Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard.

-- CMDCM(SS) Mike Anderson





ROMEO ROUGHRIDERS

COMMANDING OFFICER'S CORNER



Shipmates,

I can't tell you how excited I am to be sending this note to you in the year 2007! This means that we are on the downward slope of our deployment. Trust me, I am as excited as the next person to see the end of deployment coming near. The one thing on my mind though is that we finish the deployment as strong as we started it. Based on the latest rounds of CO's calls, I am not worried, you folks have taken every area of this deployment to a higher level.

It appears that ROMEO will not be experiencing any more significant surges. This is a good thing as it will give us the break we need in order to turnover our operation to SIERRA in a state even better than we received. SIERRA may be in for the biggest surge yet as the additional troops ordered here begin to depart near the end of the Summer or beginning of Fall. It's our job to put them in the best possible position to be successful when their surge comes.

I am going to put in one more plug for the Yahoo Group "Navy Customs ROMEO" website. A couple of the spouses have been posting there expressing their desire for the time to pass quickly to bring Spring as quickly as possible. Your spouse may really appreciate an opportunity to do this. I have posted a couple of times there as well. In discussing the website with our Ombudsman, Tori Duncan, we can keep it going indefinitely and it may end up being a post-deployment website too. Wow...am I getting ahead of myself or what?

ROMEO, keep up the outstanding work and let's keep our eyes on target. Before we know it, we will be back home with our loved ones...safe and sound. Here's to a successful 2007!

Regards, CDR Johnson



CDR JOHNSON

Shipmates, with January behind us, the shortest month of the year upon us, and our redeployment date solidly placed, it's time to spend some time planning our trip home! If you are like me, you've certainly accumulated some real cool "stuff" while here, which for many of us, amounts to a significant accumulation. Whatever amount of stuff you happened to have collected, you are, nonetheless, saddled with the dilemma of getting that "stuff" back home.

Think for a moment, about the second week of September, 2006, the week we deployed. After arriving in country, and dispersing to your respective camps, you likely struck out to carve an existence that would carry you through the next seven and a half months. For most, we spent some time in temporary lodging while waiting for our predecessors to slide out of the permanent billets so that we could slide in. Once in, we began to accumulate our "Stuff" in earnest. So here we are, on the downhill side of a seven month deployment on a Nantucket Sleigh Ride that ends with you back home with family and friends, and in possession of a lot of "stuff" that, somehow has to make it back home with you.

It's never too early to begin planning our plane ride back to the states. By giving some attention to this minor detail, we will be able to go through customs without the accumulated baggage currently in our collective possession. A proactive approach is to starting mailing the "stuff" that you can easily live without just as soon as you can. Set your sights on April first as the date you should be completely ready to redeploy home, without an awful lot of baggage to carry on the plane. Recall how well you did without all of that "stuff" when you got here.



MASTER CHIEF'S CORNER

So, the question is, what to keep, and what to ship. I predict that by February's end, you will no longer need winter garb and can safely pack and mail that "stuff" off. Remember, you will have to turn your Gortex jacket in, so you'll have to keep that around. By March our redeployment will be eminent and it will be a good time to collect up the rest of the "stuff" you really don't need and ship it off. Take the time to think about the things that you will want "some day" but don't need to finish out the deployment. Things like that flag on your wall, the boom box you bought but hardly ever use, or that bronze statue you got at the TCN mall. You should box up and mail home anything you'd rather not carry and that you aren't going to sell or give to your relief's. And don't forget about the week you'll have in Virginia at NMPS. You'll want some civilian clothing for that and you'll still need uniforms to wear as you go through the process. While the bronze statue would look good in your barracks room there, I think you can live without it, even if just for a week.

It was not my intention to give you direction on how to affect your move home. I just wanted to bring to your attention how close we are to our return to the states and to get you thinking and planning for a smooth transition. I'm on the last plane out sometime in late April, ...any takers? I can hardly wait!

Regards, CMDCM Chris Clark



ETCM CLARK



PORT GROUP ECHO

Combat Commander's View

Hello again everyone;

Well the New Year has come and gone folks and we are now past the Halfway Point ☺!! With the Holidays behind us business at the Port and Camp Patriot can become SAME O, SAME O.... I have said to my leadership team just recently that the hardest part of our deployment is NOW and in front of us. When we first arrived we were extremely busy getting acclimated to our jobs and trying to get into some form of routine. Then the Holidays, DV visits and such occupied our time for the most part that took us to the end of December 2006. Now we are in our "Sustainment" part of our deployment. We have to be ever more vigilant in our day to day activities and not allow ourselves to become complacent. Watching out for our shipmates and ensuring everyone is conducting themselves in a safe manner is paramount. Also.... Keep an eye on your fellow shipmates and ensure they are up and not down, if down, work hard to get their spirits back up.



CDR Oliver

2006 was a dynamic year for all of us I'm sure... We spent a lot of time getting ready for deployment and had little time to enjoy our normal lives as we typically should. Reflect back on 2006 and think of a couple of things you wish you could have done better and make that a goal to succeed for 2007. The month of May seems like a long time from now for some, let me tell you, its just around the corner and will be here before you know it. Ensure you ALL stay engaged and focused in the mission and most importantly, take care of your fellow shipmates. We are a solid hard working team as evident of the successes we have had to date. I am proud to serve with each of you, don't forget that!

SEE YA ON THE SAND!

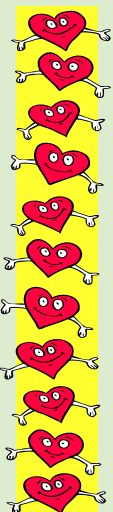
PORT OPERATIONS COMMAND SENIOR CHIEF

Old man winter is almost gone and the heat will be coming back soon. The end of our deployment is almost upon us. Let's keep mindful of our responsibilities to our Sailors, families and country. Keep your guard up at all times, routine is never routine there is always the possibility of a surprise that we didn't expect or want.

Today and everyday we need to give sanity checks not only to ourselves, but to everyone we come in contact with. Talk to your Sailors find out what is on their minds. Most time you will get the same answer, "everything is going okay". I know that less then half the time this is true, and we as leaders need to take time and understand that everyone is suffering of some type of frustration. Whether it is work related or personal we all get frustrated at some point. As I have said many times before, I have an open door policy and would gladly talk to anyone, and help any way I can. I challenge all of you to take someone aside that you see is having a "bad day" and just talk to them; it helps.



Senior Chief Lee





NAVELSG FORWARD



Navy Reservists Provide Air-Cargo Handling Support for Marines Story

Number: NNS061229-05

12/29/2006

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kenneth R. Hendrix, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group Public Affairs

AL ASAD, Iraq (NNS) -- As 2006 winds down, Navy Reservists assigned to Navy's Mobile Air Cargo Handling (MACH) VI Team, headquartered at Camp Al Asad, Iraq, look back on their accomplishments in the first few months of an expected seven month deployment.

In a 10-week span from Oct. 6 to Dec. 14, they handled more than 900,000 pounds of air cargo inbound and nearly 350,000 pounds outbound for the Marines at Al Asad Air Base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The MACH VI was mobilized, trained, equipped and deployed by the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (Forward), and supports Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 16 by providing air cargo handling expertise in tracking and shipping high-priority aeronautical parts and equipment.

Lt. Cmdr. Hai Nguyen, MACH team officer-in-charge, leads this joint Navy-Marine air cargo handling mission. "It's a great mission all around," Nguyen said, adding, "Not only do we get to contribute to the global war on terror but working alongside Marines is a rare opportunity most Sailors don't get."

The MACH team works every day processing inbound and outbound aviation cargo for the MALS 16 Aviation Supply Department, which directly supports Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced) flying squadrons, and other select 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) non-flying aviation units, at the main operating base and three forward operating bases (FOBs) in the western Iraqi province of Al Anbar.

"As the main operating base for aviation supply operations in western Iraq, MALS-16 receives up to 15,000 demands a month for aeronautical parts and equipment and is only able to efficiently and effectively ship aviation cargo destined for the FOBs, and retrograde outbound unserviceable Aviation Depot Level Repairable (AVDLR) material, with the assistance of MACH VI," said Maj. Shaun McDoniel, MALS-16 aviation supply officer.

"Our job is to provide the right parts in a timely manner to keep aircraft mission ready to support Marines and soldiers on the ground," McDoniel said. "We rely on MACH VI's capabilities to bring cargo from the flight line to our warehouse and back to the flight line to ship gear and parts to FOBs throughout the province," McDoniel added.

According to Storekeeper 2nd Class Lynn James, when not deployed, the members of MACH VI, who all mobilized from the Navy Operational Support Center in Minneapolis, Minn., train closely with the Air Force 934th Airlift Wing in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. This prior experience enabled them to hit the ground running and to perform the various duties at hand in a timely and responsible manner.

"Before we got here we had already learned how to use material handling equipment and the Air Mobility Command automatic system, Global Air Transportation Execution System, which tracks cargo worldwide." James added.

"With four to five Sailors on the flight line on a daily bases, each person is responsible for about 7,000 pounds of hauling and transporting high-priority equipment," said Storekeeper 1st Class Jason Stephenson, leading petty officer.

"On a daily basis, we ensure that Assault Support Request (ASR) mission critical repair parts for MALS-16 supported units, which are the equivalent to a Navy casualty repair part, or CASREP, are shipped out in an expeditious manner to various FOBs throughout the Al Anbar Province," Stephenson said, adding, "We also check in, on the average, about 20,000 pounds of cargo a day." Even though the Navy is a sea-going service, MACH VI understands its role in Iraq is crucial and needed.

"It's important the Navy is here adding value to the aviation logistics support mission the Marines are performing out here in Iraq," said Storekeeper 1st Class Nick Paris, assigned to MACH VI. "The Marine Corps is part of the Navy, and supporting them is part of our responsibility."

MACH VI is the sixth rotation of mobile air cargo handling teams trained and equipped for Operation Iraqi Freedom at NAVELSG headquarters in Williamsburg, Va. MACH VI mobilized in August 2006 and deployed in October 2006 for approximately seven months.

NAVELSG provides a range of supply and transportation capabilities, from cargo handling to customs inspectors for the fleet. As an expeditionary command, NAVELSG is under the new Echelon III type command, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC). NECC was established in January 2006 as the Navy's expeditionary central management for the readiness, manning, training and equipping of expeditionary Sailors.

Source: http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=27164



NAVY CUSTOMS BATTALION ROMEO

by SK2 Heberling

Fun in the Sun...Qatari style!!!

If you've got four days Rest & Recuperation Pass Program (RRPP) coming up and decide to go off base to Qatar instead of staying in your rack, here's what you've got to look forward to: 2 travel days and 4 days in the country of Qatar. The plane ride is approximately one hour. Once in Qatar you will be briefed shortly after touchdown then bussed to the base, which will be your home for the next four days. There you will be briefed then given your linens and your new berthing accommodations. It's housed in a tent inside of a warehouse, which has, get this, heated indoor showers and restrooms. "It's great not to have to go outside to use the head" remarked MN2 Marx, who just got back on 22 January 2007. "If you're going to go, make sure you take the time and money to enjoy the tours. They are worth it," says MN2 Marx.



The tours available include: Inland Sea Picnic, Dhow Cruise, Iranian Restaurant, Water Sports, New Cultural Tour, Malls, and when available Deep Sea Fishing and Golfing. All the mall trips are free. All others trips cost in range of \$27 up to \$80 for Golfing. The process for going on the tours is a bit frustrating. They have an unusual way of selecting who goes on what tour. Be patient and it will pay off. Remember, sit back and relax, you've earned this vacation.

If going on tours isn't your thing, you can just find a quiet spot and read or go to one of the on-base venues. The video game room is a favorite, with PS2 and X-Box 360 games available. There's also a movie room and some reading rooms available in the MWR building. Plus, a weight room, PX, game room, miniature golf, and an outdoor pool (don't forget the hot tub next to the pool). There is an assortment of American restaurants on base (i.e. Burger King, Pizza Inn, and Chili's). The Oasis is a restaurant that has a bar. The only other night hot spot is the Top Off, a bar attached to the MWR building. When it comes to alcoholic beverages, the two bars only sell beer and wine, no liquor. The catch is that there is a 3 drink limit per day per person. The drinking lamp is on from 1800 to 0000. Guinness, Kilkenny's, Amstel, Orange Boom, Heineken, Corona, and Miller Lite are the beers available while various red and white wines from all over the world are also available. Be prepared to spend \$4-\$6 per drink. Please take note that your drinking is monitored via your CAC card throughout the base so 3 drink maximum per night is just that, 3 drinks only.

"The best part of Qatar was just getting away for a few days," says ET2 Walter, who also just recently returned on 22 January 2007. "Seeing different things and eating at Chili's instead of the DFAC was great."

Here are some helpful tips for your travel:

- Be sure you have your battle rattle (the only time you'll be in uniform is on the travel days, the rest of the time you'll be in civilian attire).
- Make sure you bring civilian clothes that don't display anything American writings (Don't mess with Texas, US Navy etc.) if you intend to go off base.
- Also, bring at least 5 days worth of civilian clothes. Why waste time doing laundry while you're on vacation? Do it when you get back. Relax and enjoy the tours and venues...you've earned it.

SO, YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A PILOT?

By: CDR S. Cole

Mobilized Navy Reserve Officer and Continental Airlines pilot LCDR Orlando Lorie has been sharing his professional knowledge and his enthusiasm for flying with Soldiers and Sailors in a base in Southwest Asia by teaching private pilot ground school classes. The class of twelve students meets for two hours weekly, and participants who successfully complete the course will be given the opportunity to take the FAA Private Pilot Written Examination prior to departing theater. After that, the next step is to complete 40 hours of flight instruction to receive their private pilot license and take to the skies.

LCDR Lorie, currently serving at a base in Southwest Asia, as NAVELSG Intelligence, Security, and Safety Officer, joined Continental Airlines after ten years of active service in the United States Navy where he served on board the Destroyer USS OBRIEN (DD 975) and with Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One. When asked why he is teaching this course, LCDR Lorie commented "I love flying and I want to pass on my passion to a new generation of pilots. I want to inspire people to fly".

His students are enthusiastic. "I am a student pilot. Like most pilots, I realize the importance of learning from the more experienced pilots. I see the course as an opportunity to continue to learn and refresh skills while I am out of formal training but more importantly, the opportunity to gain knowledge through the experience of a professional", noted LT Jim Cortes. "I cannot think of a better way to maintain what I have learned and continue to learn new things that will make me a safer and better student pilot."

"I am in this course because I have an interest in obtaining a pilot's license and because the instruction was offered at no cost." declared LTjg Eric Chitwood of Navy Customs. "LCDR Lorie's passion for flying is evident. He is a very knowledgeable instructor and is generous with his time (as it concerns aviation)."

"Aviation - what a great way to battle a mid-life crisis", quipped one student. "This class has motivated me to finally pursue a life-long ambition". Thanks to the experience, generosity, and infectious love of flying that LCDR Lorie has given to his students, a dozen service members are on their way to meeting that ambition.

*I'm learning to fly
Around the clouds
What goes up
Must come down"*
-Tom Petty



February Fitness Tips

Now is the time to start getting into shape before going home!

By IC3 Randy Reifschneider

With so many activities —5K Runs, Kick Boxing, Ju-Jitsu or just spending some time in the gym—Sailors should consider how these activities can help them stay fit. Reservists who are having trouble passing the PRT could also benefit from a regular exercise program.

How about a bicycle ride? Just bring your orders to Zone 1 Community Center and they will sign you out a bicycle, helmet, vest and chain.

Here are some fitness tips from CS3 Michael Seta:

- Make sure you drink 20-36oz of water per hour of exercise.
- When dieting make sure you are taking in at least 1200 calories per day.
- One pound of food contains about 3500 calories.
- One 4oz scoop of Baskin Robbin's ice cream contains 260-320 calories depending on the flavor.

Petty Officer Seta is a personal trainer and also teaches high school basketball, soccer and track and field coach. He also has participated in 7 marathons and 13 triathlons.



NAVELSG Sailors play a game of soccer.



NAVY CUSTOMS BATTALION ROMEO



Happy New Year... Bravo Style

Bravo Company kicked off 2007 with a celebration that rocked the tent. With food, near-beer, shipmates and music, we began to ring in the New Year. The dance floor was hopping when Senior Chief McDonald jumped in wearing a Championship belt that outweighed him by several pounds. He entertained the crowd with all his "hip-hop" dance moves.

As the festivities rolled on we had a surprise visit from Father-time and Baby New Year. Petty Officer Bell, as Father Time sported white unmanageable hair and his Navy sweats. Baby New Year, Petty Officer Futral, made a spectacular entrance wearing nothing but a diaper and combat boots since he is the youngest member of ROMEO Battalion.

There were many door prizes and the grand prize was a four day pass in Bahrain. Petty Officer Lavalias was the lucky winner and it just happened to be on his birthday.

The pinnacle of the night was, of course, midnight. Petty Officer Hammons and Petty Officer Vickers made the evening memorable with our own "Times Square" ball drop. Petty Officer Vickers pinched the leftover Christmas lights from the MWR tent and "acquired" a large yoga ball. The ball was then wrapped in aluminum foil and lights. Next they enlisted the aid of Petty Officer Cromwell who obtained a 40 ton fork truck with a 60 foot lift... naturally they had to have something high enough to lower the ball from to make it a spectacular evening. Petty Officer Duncan rigged his lap top to display the count down. It was about the best New Years celebration one could expect being here in theater. Just wait till you see what the maintenance department is cooking up for B-Company's Mardi Gras celebration!

By: SK2 Mary Lu Gilbert and AG2 Cheryl A. Cromwell



Mass Casualty Art By MC1 Anderson

If you happened to be near PCB 103 at around 1500 on 30 December 06, you were probably a little startled. Maybe you were even pressed into service to assist the medical team. There appeared to be a devastating incident causing numerous injuries.

Was this an IED right at our PCB? No, but if it had been, we can rest assured, we are in good hands with the SECFOR and Medical teams here. Capt Faye Pyles, of Medical Task Force, stated that "The Mass Casualty Drill that was conducted on the 30th of December was an overall success. "

The rapid response of all levels of the emergency response system was exceptional. Actions observed from the arrival of the initial base security and combat life savers personnel until the termination of the drill at the Troop Medical Clinic demonstrated a reassuring degree of competency. The teamwork demonstrated during this drill clearly reflected well planned and well orchestrated training. This is a drill held quarterly at all the camps within theater. It is designed to assess the response time and capabilities of the SECFOR and local commands medical teams to triage, treat and transport the wounded.

The medical staff provided the Mulage team, which is tasked with creating some of the most horrific and realistic wounds imaginable. They are also tasked with providing the wounded. This particular exercise was an IED explosion staged at the north end of Camp Patriot. It involved 10 victims with wounds ranging from minor to critical life threatening injuries. The victims were assessed and tagged, based upon the severity of their injuries, in order to maximize medical personnel resources and ensure the greatest number of survivors.

They were then transported to the TMC at the base. There, doctors would be able to provide much more in depth medical care, implementing more sophisticated medical equipment at that facility.





NAVY CUSTOMS BATTALION ROMEO

As the New Year settles for the Sailors of Delta Company, January began the largest surge of turnover with the Air Force, and the beginning of rest and relaxation.

The Sailors stationed at Delta Company saw the largest surge of passengers, and equipment pass inspection since the start of the deployment. Over 3,000 Air Force personnel, 12,500 bags, and 23 Conex missions were accomplished by the 25 Sailors. Watch bills and time off was at a premium, however, the mission stayed true. Customer Service, Safety of Flight, and helping a very weary and tired group head home. "Why did they have so many bags?" said GM2 David Saddler. The Sailors have become accustomed to the Air Force traveling with so much gear. "I can understand if someone was stationed here for a year, and were able to wear civilian clothes, however, that is not a luxury we are allowed to have up here."

Even though the month passed quickly with the heavy work schedule, a few of the Sailors were able to partake in rest and relaxation in Qatar. ABH2 Geier and BM2 Kitts were able to begin their time off celebrating the New Year along with Romeo Battalion Commanding Officer, CDR Johnson and CMDCM Clark. HM2 Charlotte Muenchrath, SK2 Helen Wallace, and IT1 Loretta Ward also were able to make the journey south for some much needed time off. "I was able to connect with a few of my former colleagues that I was fortunate enough to serve with in the Marine Corps, and to enjoy the cultural aspects of the Arabic lifestyle. I was also able to get a little peace of mind away from the hustle of serving in Iraq" remarked "Doc". EO2 Luis Fernandez was also able to get a few days of relaxation. "It was good, it was relaxing, and it was a break you know, a break from being in the same place, something new and something different. It was cool, a great atmosphere, everyone is there to have fun." Delta Company also welcomed a new member, as IT2 Cornell Evans made the transition to join the company in its push towards home.

With just a few short months left and a few small surges left, the 25 members of Delta Company are preparing themselves for turnover with SIERRA, and the family and friends they have at home. Complacency is not an issue for the Sailors. The true focus of the mission is seen in the eyes of these extremely dedicated people. TO ALL OF OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WE WILL SEE YOU SOON, AND WE LOVE YOU ALL.....Delta Company Out.....



Be My  Valentine



Celebrate Black History Month by Remembering Dr. Carter G. Woodson

By QM3 Yvette Anderson



Picture courtesy Chicago Public Library

Every year in February, America celebrates the historical contributions of African Americans during Black History month. But what is the significance of Black History month? Why is it celebrated in February, and what is the history behind Black History month?

The founder and “father” of Black History month was Dr. Carter G. Woodson, (1875-1950) a Virginia native born in New Canton, VA to former slaves, Anne Eliza (Riddle) and James Henry Woodson. Dr. Woodson was the son of a carpenter who was born into a large family. Growing up on a farm in Virginia, Dr. Woodson had little time for school, yet somehow he managed to devote a few months at a time to self education. At the age of twenty, Dr. Woodson received a formal education, earning his high school diploma in just two years from Douglass High School in West Virginia. After receiving his diploma, Dr. Woodson’s career took off.

Dr. Woodson went on to pursue a Bachelor of Literature degree from Berea College in Kentucky. He later traveled to Europe and Asia where he attended the Sorbonne University in France in 1907. He completed his graduate studies at the University of Chicago and received his Ph.D. in History from Harvard University in 1912. Over the course of Dr. Carter’s distinguished career, he taught in the U.S. and abroad in the Philippines. He was a high school teacher, principal, and Dean of Howard University and West Virginia Collegiate Institute.

A scholar, educator and writer, Dr. Woodson became widely known for his writings and philosophies about Black people. For Dr. Woodson, the importance of history was not the “mere gathering of facts; instead, history “must include some description of the social conditions of the people being studied.” Therefore, Dr. Woodson wrote numerous books, articles, and periodicals about the social, economic, and political conditions that affected African Americans during the 19th and 20th centuries. Some of his work includes writings on the effects of slavery in America, free blacks, the black church, blacks in business, and the education of black people.

With such a strong emphasis on documenting Black history in America, Dr. Woodson developed and founded Negro History week in 1926 during the second week of February. He chose February because it is the birth month of key historical figures to Black history, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Thanks to the pioneering spirit of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Negro Week started out as an event which took place the second week of February. Today it has evolved into Black History month which lasts for the entire month of February. It is a month long celebration which recognizes the contributions and participation Blacks have made and continue to make to American history.

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OSC Neil Ross
(Retired Conservation Officer)

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...(of course I'm talking about Williamsburg!) "Cathartes Aura" and his buddies were patiently waiting for me! Every morning, during PT warm-ups, a quick glance at the skies, and there they were. Turkey vultures! Anxiously waiting for a PT drop-out? Yikes!

Well, even though the thought of them waiting for me was quite comical, the view of turkey vultures soaring in flight is awesome! Most people think they're hawks (not even close). In our wild, wild world of nature, vultures are fascinating creatures! Teetering from side to side while flying, the Turkey Vulture is unique, characterized by holding its 6 foot wingspan at a V-angle, called "dihedral". (Unlike hawks and eagles which tend to hold their wings out flat or horizontal).

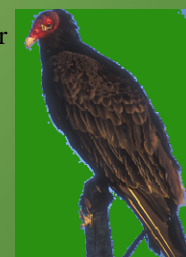
Unlike most birds, vultures have a keen sense of smell which is used in their search for "carriion" (dead and putrefying flesh). The Turkey Vulture's olfactory equipment can pick up the scent of "ethyl mercaptan", a gas produced by the beginnings of decay in dead animals, at over 10 miles away!

Turkey Vultures have few natural predators. Its primary form of defense; would you believe, is vomiting! They do not projectile vomit, they simply cough up a lump of semi digested meat. This foul-smelling substance deters most creatures. In some cases, the vulture must rid its crop of a heavy undigested meal in order to lift off (fly) and flee a potential predator. It's not a good idea to run up to a group of Turkey Vultures on the ground unless you are prepared to smell the consequences!

Usually 1-3 cream colored spotted eggs can be found in the crevasses of cliffs, in old deserted buildings, or simply on the ground. They do not construct nests! With no vocal organs, Turkey Vultures only utter hisses and grunts. If the young are threatened, they defend themselves by hissing and regurgitating. Lovely!

If you live in South Eastern USA, there is another popular bird, the "Black Vulture" which is often seen near Turkey Vultures. This bird is much smaller and shows a distinct and smaller "squared" tail in flight. Only the Turkey Vulture displays a bare red face, hence the namesake.

As one of nature's unique garbage disposal systems, Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures are protected under Federal Law. Learn anything? I hope so. See you next time!



Who is up for reenlistment?

By: AG2 Cheryl A. Cromwell



On January 22, 2007 AG2 Cheryl A. Cromwell answered that question with a renowned, "So help me God". LT Linda K. Ashford conducted the noon time re-enlistment ceremony as members of Navy Customs ROMEO Bravo Company looked on.



When asked AG2's thoughts on reenlisting she said, "When I first enlisted 7 years ago, I was recruited by my daughter (BU2 Mary A. Montigny). We have developed a new strength and competitive edge to our relationship through our ties with the Navy. I never second guessed whether I would reenlist or not, but now having served in Kuwait in a troop support mission, I could not be more certain. I am proud to wear the Navy uniform and uphold Navy traditions. God willing...I will serve a full 20 years and retire with pride." AG2 will be rewarded with a \$7,500 SRB (Selective Reenlistment Bonus) for her dedication to uphold the Constitution of the United States.





Question of the Month

PAGE 12



What is your New Year's Resolution.....

ARMORY



"To have an incident free deployment/redeployment. Try to prepare my troops for advancement & self improvement."

GMCS BOSWELL



ALPHA



"To be more assertive."

FT2 THOMPSON

MACH TEAM



"To not come back to here again, for awhile anyway."

SK2 SPICER

MACH TEAM



"To not make any more New Year's resolution and eliminate the disappoints from failure to keep a resolution".

LCDR NGUYEN

CHARLIE



"To improve my financial situation (better job) and to relocate."

YN2 MALDONADO



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



BM2	ATKINS	-ECHO	BM2	HUNTLEY	-ECHO	SK2	PALMA	-ECHO
MA2	BAIR	-ROMEO	GM3	JIMENEZ	-ECHO	BM2	PENNILL	-ROMEO
LCDR	BREWER	-ECHO	BM3	JOHNSON	-ROMEO	CS3	PEROCIER	-ROMEO
AD3	CHABERT	-ROMEO	CS2	JORDAN	-ROMEO	AO3	POWELL	-ROMEO
IC3	CLASPILL	-ROMEO	IT2	KIESSLING	-ECHO	IT1	PROCOP	-ROMEO
CS3	CRATER	-ROMEO	BM2	KITTS	-ROMEO	PC3	REDD	-ROMEO
STS2	CURTISS	-ROMEO	AM3	LEIS	-ROMEO	BMC	RIESS	-ROMEO
EM2	DEINLEIN	-ROMEO	CS3	LOZA	-ROMEO	GSEC	SEXTON	-ROMEO
BM2	DELAROSA	-ROMEO	IT2	MACK	-ECHO	SK2	SIDRANSKY	-ROMEO
IT2	DOUGHERTY	-ROMEO	SK2	MAREK	-ECHO	QMC	SNYDER	-ECHO
AN	FUENTES	-ROMEO	SK3	MEEKER	-ECHO	IT2	THOMPSON	-ECHO
AT3	FULTON	-ROMEO	CS3	MILLER	-ROMEO	AO2	VELASQUEZ	-ROMEO
EN2	GARCIA	-ROMEO	STG2	MORRIS	-ROMEO	MM3	WEEMS	-ROMEO
SK2	HEMPHILL	-ECHO	LCDR	NGUYEN	-ECHO	GSM3	WHITE	-ROMEO
AO2	HILL	-ECHO	MM3	OHLHAUSER	-ROMEO	HM2	WILLIAMSBARKER	-ECHO
SKC	HUGHES	-ECHO	HM2	ONDERDONK	-ROMEO	AO1	WILSON	-ROMEO
						BM3	YATES	-ROMEO





AROUND THE AOR



LTjg Palmer, LT Baum,
LT Dano, and LTjg Chitwood



CMDCM Watson, Force
Master Chief Pennington,
and HMC Zuniga.



Seperated at Birth and found each
other in theater. Amazing.....



Idol Contestants PSC Kuiper and
BM3 Walton still in the running.



"Who Am I"?



CS3 Kuncce wife had
a baby boy Isaac
Kuncce. Born
31 January 2007
Weight 5 lbs. 15 oz.
Length 19 inches



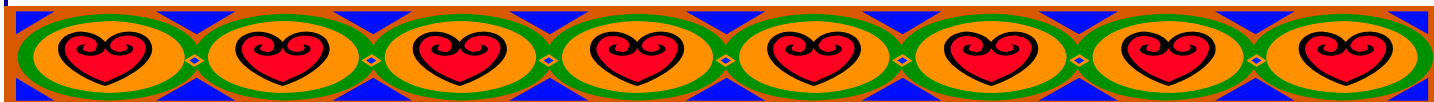
IT2 Mack, SK3 Session, SK2
Alston, BM3 Tabb, BM2
Mazyck and BM1 Gillespie on
a MWR to the Kuwait Towers



Kyle Harding and wife Sarah
are the proud parents to
Nathan Charles Harding, an
8lb 10oz baby boy, born on
their 7th wedding anniversary.



LCDR Woods and her
birthday flowers



NAVELSG Excellence At Work

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS

LT Ashford, LT Dano, LT Williams, LTJG Palmer, MACS Rixson, OSCS McDonald, BMCS Skalsky, MAC Stanfield, MC1 Anderson, ATCS MacDonell, EN1 Powell, ABF1 Flores, AE2 Culbertson, AO2 Bubenheimer, CS3 Seta, CTT1 Sphon, IT3 Kuna, ITC Crews, CS3 Lute



CTI2 Knight and
LCDR Mason

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

LCDR Woods, ET1 Zimmerman, SK1 Tillotson, IC2 Crews

CUSTOMS SOQ 4TH QUARTER

EN1 Powell

CUSTOMS JSOQ 4TH QUARTER

SK2 Steele



CTT2 Morlang and
CDR Johnson

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

EN2 Morales, EO1(SCW) Cureton, ET1 Coulter, HM1 Beery, IT1 Taylor, BM2 Meyers, CS1 Jones, YN3 Sanders, YN2 Daye, YN1 Luck, SK3 Riley, SK3 Peterson, SK3 Meeker, SK2 Wood, SK2 Rush, SK2 Palma, SK1 Anthony, IT3 Gifford, IT2 Thompson

SAFETY AWARDS

OSC Bells, DC1 Green, AO1 Baird, AO1 Parker, BM1 Conklin, IC2 Crews, MM1 Hedden, DC1 Tarter, DC2 Dodimead, BM1 Bortell, CS1 Biscocho, FC2 Kramer, OS2 Driver

SOARING EAGLES CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

IT1 Newman, IT1 Procop, GM1 Austin, GM1 Jewell, GM2 Havens, GM2 Ratliff, SK1 Stephenson, GM2 Sanders, GM2 Steiner, ET2 Bell, AZC Martin, CM1 Marsh, SK2 James, SK2 Spicer, SK3 Bautista

ROMEO ROUGH RIDER CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

YN1 Hansen, PS2 Luke, CTI2 Knight, IC3 Sanford, MM2 Marx, SK2 Fowler, IC3 Reifschneider, ABE3 Mcleroy, AD2 Davis, AM2 Konop, AME2 Cabral, AO3 Powell, AS3 Bachler, BM2 Moore, BM3 Koney, BM3 Randle, CS1 Jones, CS2 Freeman, CS2 Hubert, CS2 Jordan, CS3 Henry, EM2 Morris, EO2 Bass, HT1 Janes, IC1 Richardson, IT2 Evans, IT3 Morris, IT3 Smith, MA2 Engleson, MM1 Rhodes, OS1 Allen, OS1 Weatherford, QM3 Randall, SGT Davis, SK1 Ingram, SK2 Lina, SK2 Ogden, SK2 Pena, SK2 Steele, STG2 Edwards, STS1 Meyers, YN2 Daye, YN2 Maldonado, YN2 Wilson, YN3 Cain, YN3 Dollar, YN3 Sanders, ABH2 Geier, BM2 Kitts, EO2 Fernandez, ET2 Kemnitz, IC2 Palmer, SK2 Contreras, YN2 Kremer

HARD CHARGER AWARDS

SK2 Bailen, CS3 Huff, BM3 Pfiefer, CM2 Dreer, SK3 Jennifer Cox, ET1 Joey Siebold, YN2 Sara Streeter, ET2 Richard Lankford, HT2 Fleetwood, Jeremy, SK3 Michael Villamer

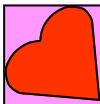


ET2 Bell and RADM Redpath



**CONGRATULATIONS ON A
JOB WELL DONE**

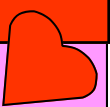




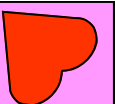
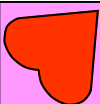
February In History

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By SK3 David Nolen



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1st 1790: Supreme Court convenes for the first time
1965: Martin Luther King Jr and 700 demonstrators arrested in Selma, Alabama</p> <p>2nd 1653: New Amsterdam (later renamed New York) is founded</p> <p>3rd 1877: The piano piece 'chopsticks' is copyrighted
1913: the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified establishing National income tax.</p> <p>4th 1783: England officially proclaims an end to hostilities in America
1971: Rolls Royce goes bankrupt after a disastrous contract to supply aero engines to Lockheed Aircraft</p> <p>5th 1922: The very first 'Readers Digest' appears on the shelves
1988: Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize</p> <p>6th 1778: France recognizes US, signs treaty of aid in Paris (First US treaty).
1788: Massachusetts becomes the sixth of the United States.
1959: Indira Ghandi becomes the leader of India's Congress Party</p> <p>7th 1984: US astronaut Bruce McCandless is the first person to 'Spacewalk' untethered to a spacecraft</p> <p>8th 1924: Gas chamber used for the first time in an American state prison
1926: Walt Disney Studios is formed
1969: First test flight of the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet</p> <p>9th 1970: World's first nerve transplant, in Germany
1989: Neo-Nazi groups outlawed in West Germany</p> <p>10th 1931: New Delhi becomes the capital city of India
1942: The first ever record 'Gold Disc' is presented to Glenn Miller
1986: Largest ever Mafia trial, in Palermo, Sicily</p> <p>11th 1943: General Eisenhower selected to command the allied armies in Europe
1970: Japan launches its first satellite into orbit
1990: After being in prison for 27 years, Nelson Mandela is freed</p> <p>12th 1912: China becomes a republic
1915: Cornerstone laid for Lincoln Memorial.
1961: First spacecraft to the planet Venus launched</p> <p>13th 1924: King Tut's tomb is opened
1960: The French test their first atomic bomb in the Sahara</p> <p>14th 1924: Thomas Watson opens IBM
1929: The St Valentines Day Massacre, in Chicago
1963: First successful kidney transplant</p> <p>15th 1936: Hitler announces building of Volkswagen
1989: Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan ends</p> | <p>16th 1937: Nylon is patented
1959: Fidel Castro becomes the President of Cuba,
1960: The nuclear powered submarine 'Triton' sets off on its round the world underwater voyage</p> <p>17th 1864: First successful warship attack by a submarine during the American Civil War
1933: US Senate accepts Blaine Act, ending prohibition
1972: The Volkswagen 'Beetle' becomes the most successful production model, selling over 15 million vehicles</p> <p>18th 1841: First continuous filibuster in US Senate began, lasting until March 11
1930: Pluto discovered by Clyde Tombaugh</p> <p>19th 1878: Thomas Edison patents the phonograph
1906: William Kellogg founds his breakfast cereal company
1992: North and South Korea officially end their 40 year confrontation</p> <p>20th 1811: Austria declares itself bankrupt
1962: John Glenn, the American astronaut, orbits the Earth three times</p> <p>21st 1804: The first ever steam train to run on rails is demonstrated by Richard Trevithick
1960: Cuban leader Fidel Castro nationalizes all businesses in Cuba</p> <p>22nd 1879: Frank Woolworth opens his first 'Woolworths' store in Utica, New York
1991: Iraq begins setting fire to Kuwait's oil installations
1994: Iraq begins flooding its southern marshes to destroy the Shia Muslims living there</p> <p>23rd 1836: The siege at the Alamo, Texas, begins - only six people survived
1919: Italian Fascist Party founded by Benito Mussolini</p> <p>24th 1938: Nylon's first commercial use, in toothbrush bristles</p> <p>25th 1939: The first 'Anderson' air raid shelters are erected, in London
1986: President Marcos of the Philippines escapes to the United States
1990: Nationwide pro-democracy marches in the Soviet Union
1993: South Korea elects its first civilian President for 23 years</p> <p>26th 1815: Napoleon Bonaparte escapes from exile on the Island of Elba
1936: Volkswagen Beetle car launched by Adolf Hitler
1991: During the Gulf War, Kuwait City is liberated and Iraq begins its withdrawal
1993: Terrorist bomb explosion under the World Trade Center, New York</p> <p>27th 1879: Two American chemists announce the discovery of saccharin
1991: An allied ceasefire in the Gulf War begins, Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait.</p> <p>28th 1827: First US railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, is incorporated
1854: The Republican Party is formally organized
1912: First ever parachute jump from an airplane
1991: The Gulf War ends as Iraq orders its army to stop fighting</p> <p>29th 1904: Theodore Roosevelt, appoints 7 man committee to study Panama Canal
1956: Pakistan becomes an Islamic republic</p> |
|---|--|



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE STAFF

NAVELSG PAO Staff is always looking for pictures and stories for the *Sandbox*. Contributions are welcome, just talk to your Company Public Affairs Officer, or email them to tina.j.grogg@swa.army.mil. All stories will be considered for publishing.



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RP3 Anderson

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Bravo

MC2 Stokes

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Please see your Company
Cruisebook Coordinator to
put your name on the list
to order a cruisebook.



FWD HQ
ROMEO
PORT

GO
NAVY



For cruise book information please see your company cruise book coordinator. The lead cruise book personnel are for FW HQ BMCS Diaz and ROMEO AGC Smart.

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BMC Oaks

IC1 Richardson

OS1 Weatherford

QM3 Randall

IT3 Gifford

Delta

MM2 Mack

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MAC Stanfield

HQ

AGC Smart

PSC Kuiper

YN2 Monroe

YN2 Zinck